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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,484

09/05/2003

Steven D. Jones

SUS01 P329

8700

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7590

08/02/2006

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EXAMINER

KRAMER, DEVON C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*Supp.*  
**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/656,484

Examiner

Devon C. Kramer

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Art Unit

3683

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 4/25/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

*[Signature]*  
7/31/06

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with H.W Reick on April 11, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-11 and 22-26 are cancelled.

2) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: IN re claim 12, none of the references cited either alone or in combination provide a coupling member for a gas-assist strut comprising: a body coupled to an end of a rod having a spherical socket with a pair of slots communicating with a socket for receiving a generally C-shaped spring, the body including a recess configured to receive a cam; a cam including a cam element and control handle, the cam nestably received within the recess of the body; and a generally C-shaped spring having ends and a center section, wherein the center section has a width covering the cam element when the spring is positioned over the cam for engaging the body, wherein the ends of the spring extend within the slots of the body for lockably engaging a ball, wherein the cam element when moved from a locking position to an unlocking position engages the center section of

the spring and urges the ends of the spring at least partially out of the slots for releasing the body from an associated ball to decouple the strut.

IN re claim 17, none of the references cited either alone or in combination provide a coupling member for a gas-assist strut comprising: a spring having at least one semi cylindrical recess for receiving an end of a cam element of the cam when in a locking position.

IN re claim 20, none of the references cited either alone or in combination provide a coupling member for a gas-assist strut comprising: a body recess including an arcuate slot extending through an arc of about 180 degrees for receiving the control handle.

3) Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devon C. Kramer whose telephone number is 571-272-7118. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan can be reached on (571 )272-6786. The fax phone

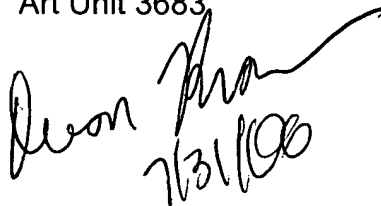
Art Unit: 3683

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DK

Devon C Kramer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3683

Handwritten signature of Devon C Kramer and the date 7/31/06.